

A Cooperative Publication of the City of Bryan and Bryan Independent School District

## Lobos’ Road to Success Not That Long

The words hang like a fog over Jane Long Middle School. Low Performing.

The Texas Education Agency gave the school the rating based on test scores on the writing portion of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test, taken last spring. While the “stubbed toe” will continue to pain the Lobos for awhile, steps are being taken to cure the hurt. The planning began last spring to get the school the few points it needs to lose the low performing designation. Just as the spring fog is burnt away, sunnier days are ahead for the campus. There is plenty of sunshine to spread. Examples include:

Jane Long was honored as the 2002 Elmer Watson Middle School of the Year for Region VI in the state of Texas, based on its innovative programs and efforts to improve student achievement.

Last year, five Jane Long students represented Texas and the entire southern United States at the Dept. of Energy’s National Junior Science Bowl Competition. The team of Davis Buenger, Steven Kochevar, Michael Smith, Kelvin Monroe and Daniel Fredericks placed 5th in the nation and received the Civility Award for their decorum during the contest.

Among Long’s innovative programs is AVID, or Advancement Via Independent Determination. The AVID program targets “under-served” students. These young people are able to excel in their studies, but might not continue their education at a four-year university. This program seeks to provide opportunities to these students through academic and motivational support. Students in AVID learn about setting goals, organization, research, collaboration and note-taking, as well as other skills they will need in college.

Another set of students — Will Aldredge and Andrew Saladino — took first place at



the State Science Olympiad at Texas A&M for designing a container that would allow an egg to drop safely from a high perch. The Reach for the Stars team, competing in the astronomy competition at the Science Olympiad, finished fourth in the state.

Science can also meet Art at Jane Long. Last year Alexander Leadum took first in the National Chemistry Week Poster Contest.

Jane Long’s Lobo Band set a new record for musical excellence this year. Sixteen Long musicians made All-City Band, with seven of those making the Texas Music Educators Association All-Region Band.

Jane Long students are active in academic competitions. The Lobos are competitive in most categories, especially math, science and spelling. But it is not unusual to bring home team and individual honors from as many as 16 different subject contests.

Teen Leadership classes took it upon themselves to form the Lobo Leaders, focused on building school pride and serving the community. Also serving their community is the Jane Long Crime Stoppers Board, which received the Innovative Publicity Award at last year’s state Crime Stoppers Convention.

While Lobo athletic teams are regular

winners, the sports for the brains are not lacking. The Long Chess team traveled to state championships in Corpus Christi last year, bringing home three individual medals.

While Jane Long prepares our next group of leaders for tomorrow, they are learning it firsthand. Four of Bryan ISD’s seven Trustees have Lobo ties. Trustees David Stasny, Carl Hasan, Tommy Ramirez Jr. and Dr. Nancy Simpson all have had children attend Jane Long.

At Jane Long, all students are important. Some find their niche in athletics, others in music and others in art. Still others lead the way in academics. But through innovation and dedication, every student has a place to be successful at Jane Long.

For more information about Jane Long and its programs, please call the principal, Lee Yeager, or one of the counselors — Agnes Gray, Anne Hoffman, or Hector Rodriguez — at 821-6500. Jane Long has an active and growing PTO. Contact President Tina Cooper to find out how you can get involved.

### Bryan's Best

Two National Blue Ribbon Schools:  
Johnson Elementary, 1999;  
Bowen Elementary, 2001

Texas Education Agency has rated 11 Bryan schools among the best, Bowen, Henderson, Sam Houston, Johnson and Neal elementaries are Exemplary; Sam Rayburn Middle School, Bonham Branch, Crockett, Navarro and Sul Ross elementaries are Recognized.

Bryan High Softball, 2002 State Champions

Bryan High Auto Technology Team, 2002 State Champions

Academic Decathlon Team, Regional Champions for 15 of the last 18 years

Class of 2002: eight Hispanic Recognition Scholars and two National Merit Scholars

## Bryan Votes–Turning to the Future

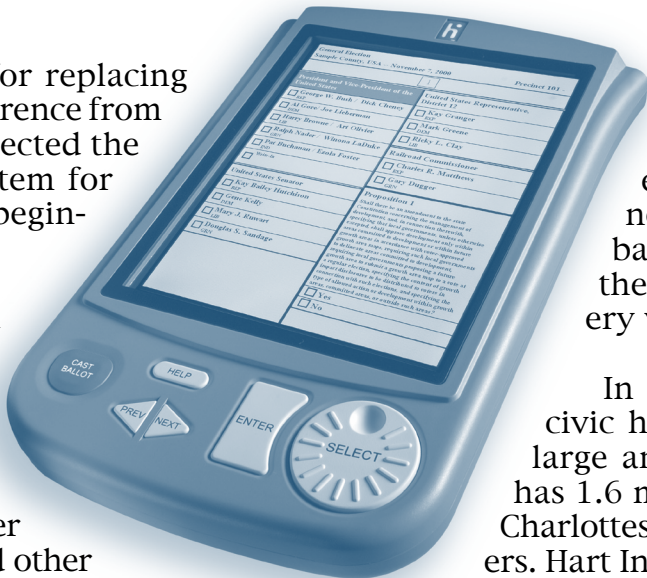
Voters going to the polls in the May 2003 City of Bryan/Bryan ISD elections will be the first to use a new voting system that will replace the old punch card system that has been used in Brazos County for 30 years.

After carefully evaluating alternatives for replacing the old system, Brazos County — with concurrence from the cities of Bryan and College Station — selected the Hart Intercivic eSlate electronic voting system for use in all elections held in Brazos County beginning in 2003.

Brazos County appointed a selection committee of county, city and information technology representatives who evaluated electronic voting systems for more than a year. Election judges, special interest groups and citizens were asked to “vote” on three electronic voting systems and offer feedback as to ease of voting, accessibility and other issues. The eSlate system allows accessibility by all voters, regardless of their level of physical ability.

The eSlate system offers several features that set it apart from other electronic voting systems, including an interface that allows easy navigation through the electronic ballot and reduces problems typical of touch-screen voting systems. eSlate is easy to use, accurate and audible. Poll workers will appreciate

the simplicity of set-up, light weight and durability, while election staff, candidates and the public will enjoy the speed with which votes are counted and reports are generated.



As your local elections administrator, I believe the system will streamline the operations of our elections and bring more flexibility to the local ballot generation process. Knowing our voters will now have the opportunity to review their ballots and make changes prior to casting their final votes will help to ensure that every vote counts.

In addition to Brazos County, Hart Intercivic has installed eSlate in jurisdictions both large and small, such as Harris County, which has 1.6 million registered voters, and the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, with 19,000 registered voters. Hart Intercivic is an Austin-based company that manufactures its eSlate equipment in Sugar Land.

As Election Day approaches, there will be numerous opportunities for voters to learn more about casting their ballots on the eSlate system. Tune to Channel 20, the City of Bryan/Bryan ISD government and education cable channel, closer to Election Day for more information, or call my office at (979) 209-5002.

–Mary Lynne Stratta,  
Bryan City Secretary



# Welcome to LIVING & LEARNING!



Welcome to the first edition of **LIVING AND LEARNING**. This collaborative effort between the Bryan Independent School District and the City of Bryan is designed to provide a new line of communication to the people we serve.

This is an exciting time to be a citizen of Bryan. The city is growing both economically and physically. During this school year, Bryan ISD has reached its high-

est enrollment ever, topping out at just over 14,000 students. As the city grows, and more families join us, the school district will be ready to meet the challenge of providing the same excellence in education to more and more students.

This community has always valued children and has been very supportive of Bryan ISD schools. The District is striving to ensure that we are worthy of the trust you have placed in us to teach your children.

This year, teachers and administrators are focusing on the upcoming Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, which will be given for the first time. This series of tests will be more comprehensive and more challenging than previous tests. Third-grade students will be most affected this year. They must pass the reading portion of the test to advance to the fourth grade.

The state did not change the test just for the sake of change. As directed by the Texas Legislature, the new test is more in alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, the curriculum that outlines what students should know and at what grade level they should learn it.

There is more information on TAKS within this publication. Bryan ISD teachers and administrators have been preparing the students for the change from TAAS to TAKS for several years. We believe our test scores will reflect that.

Again, thanks for your support! It is the citizens of Bryan that have made the city a great place to live and learn. If you have any questions about Bryan ISD, please do not hesitate to call the District at 361-5200.

  
Dr. Herman L. Smith, Superintendent, BISM



## Bigger, Brighter, More Beautiful Bryan

The past 12 months not only brought many changes for Bryan residents, but also for those who work for our wonderful city organization.

Our citizens have benefited greatly from changes such as:

- Code enforcement being handled by the Police Department, which has resulted in the city becoming a more beautiful place in which to live & work
- An increase in the Façade Grant Program for downtown, which has spurred new development and redevelopment in this historic area
- Contracting out the maintenance of Bryan's many parks as a way to operate more efficiently while providing cleaner and better-maintained facilities to parks visitors

City staff also continues to make strides in addressing the Bryan City Council's strategic initiatives:

1. The Downtown Business Association is in the process of hiring a director who will coordinate merchant activities and be a

liaison between the association and the city. Store fronts are continuing to receive "facelifts," and interest in vacant buildings is increasing.

2. Manor East Mall has begun its conversion to The Tejas Center. The City has agreed to provide the infrastructure improvements that were required by HEB, which include burying the drainage channel located behind Hastings, and providing additional traffic signals. Late summer should see the ground breaking for the new HEB.

3. The next phase of the South College Avenue Master Plan has been scheduled and should begin later this year.

4. The final plans for the grade separation at Villa Maria and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are approved and the bid for this work should be awarded by summertime.

5. Additional neighborhoods have formed associations and are partnering with the city, which benefits the entire community.

6. Signage and landscaping have been determined to be two of the focus areas when considering improvements to the city's entrances.

City staff will continue to pursue these goals in 2003 and begin addressing street extensions and improvements at the council's direction.

Please contact us at any time should you have questions. Don't forget to use your Key to the City, your 24-hour information access tool found at [www.bryantx.org](http://www.bryantx.org), or by calling (979) 209-5250.

The City of Bryan wishes you a healthy and prosperous year!

  
Mary Kay Moore, Bryan City Manager



# Goodbye, Manor East; Hello, Tejas Center!



The once proud Manor East Mall in Bryan will soon launch its multimillion dollar comeback as it transforms into The Tejas Center at one of the city’s busiest and most important crossroads, Texas Avenue and Villa Maria Road.

The Tejas Center will use a large, state-of-the-art HEB grocery store as its anchor and will feature property-wide renovations to facilities, infrastructure, parking lots and landscaping. The City of Bryan has agreed to \$2.26 million in public improvements requested by HEB, and will convert the above-ground storm water drainage system that currently runs behind Hastings into an underground system.

Traffic signalization will change, too, as two new signals will be installed near The Tejas Center for easier access to the property.

The City of Bryan is scheduled to begin the storm water drainage conversion project by late spring with completion scheduled by the end of the year. HEB will begin the approximate 12-month construction on its 70,000 square-foot facility as soon as the city project is completed. HEB’s grand opening is scheduled for 2004.

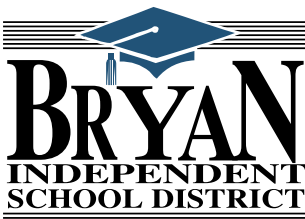
In 2002, the Bryan City Council made the rehabilitation of Manor East Mall and the continued development of the city’s Central Business Corridor (Villa Maria Road/Briarcrest Drive) two of its top priorities.

## Living & Learning



www.ci.bryan.tx.us  
979-209-5000

Jay Socol  
Public Information Officer



www.bryanisd.org  
979-361-5200

Phillip Sulak  
Director of Communications

# The Facts on TAKS!

## What is TAKS?

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) is the newest version of Texas’ statewide assessment test. The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) will no longer be used. The new test is more closely aligned with the state’s curriculum standards, which are called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The TEKS outline what skills students need to learn and at what grade level they should learn them.

## How is it different than TAAS?

TAKS will be more comprehensive and more challenging than TAAS. Objectives and student expectations addressed on the TAKS are directly taken from the TEKS.

The overall format of the assessment program will be similar to TAAS. Annual testing will occur in grades 3-11 and students in the 11th grade will be required to pass an exit level TAKS exam to receive a diploma. The exit-level TAAS was given in the 10th grade.

## What happens this year?

This year’s third-grade students will be the first to be affected by the new testing requirements. They must pass the reading portion of the TAKS to be promoted to the fourth grade. A number of actions may occur if a third-grade student fails the reading assessment of TAKS, including:

- Extra instruction will be provided to strengthen the skills needed to be a successful reader;
- The student will receive two more opportunities to take and pass the reading test before the 2003-2004 school year; and
- A committee may be formed, including the parent or guardian, to find the best placement for the student.

Other requirements, for other grades, must be satisfied in the future. Beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, fifth-grade students must pass the reading and math portions of the TAKS to be promoted to sixth grade. In 2007-2008, eighth-grade students must pass the reading and math portions to be promoted. The TAKS test will also place more emphasis on social studies, which will be tested in grades 8, 10 and 11.

## TAKS Highlights

### Social Studies

Social Studies is a new component of the assessment test that will focus on 8th-, 10th- and 11th-grade students. Students must have a knowledge of people and places, be able to find the main idea, make conclusions, summarize and interpret maps, charts and graphs. Students will be asked about the causes of events such as the Civil War and World War II. For the first time, the assessment will test high school students. The test will be cumulative, so knowledge attained in 8th and 10th grades will be important for 11th-graders.

### Reading

More emphasis will be placed on critical analysis. Rather than just identifying the main idea, students will be asked to retell important events. Test takers will also be asked to analyze characters more deeply. Dictionaries will be allowed during the seventh-grade writing exam, the ninth-grade reading exam and for the reading and writing exams in grades 10 and 11.

### Writing

The writing portion of the test is given in grades 4, 7, 10 and 11. Students will be able to respond in any format they choose. The answer can be a narrative, how-to, persuasive or whichever way best expresses their response. The graders will look for five components in the test takers’ answer—voice, depth of development, sentence-to-sentence movement, focus and coherence and responsiveness to prompts.

### Mathematics

Charts, rulers and graphing calculators will all figure into the mathematics portion of the TAKS test, with algebra and geometry as the dominant features. Third-graders will be provided charts that include measurement conversions, while charts at higher grade levels will include formulas. All grades will use metric and standard rulers to measure items. Students did not manipulate the rulers with TAAS. They were shown a picture of an item placed over a ruler and asked to calculate its measurement.

Most of the math portion of TAKS will be multiple-choice, but each test will contain grids ranging from two to eight columns, depending on the grade. High school students will be required to use a graphing calculator for the entire test.

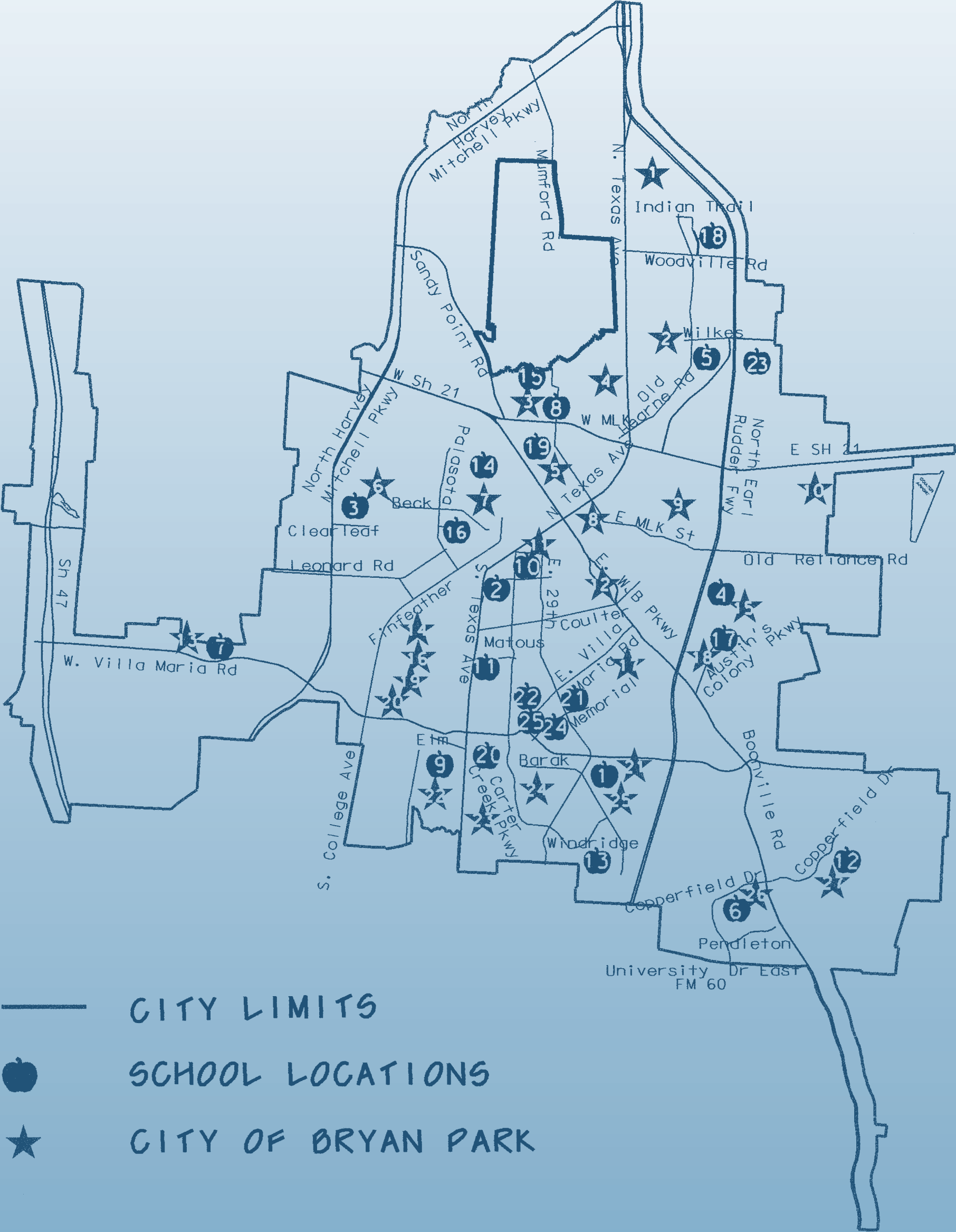
## TAKS Testing

Grade 3 – Reading and Math  
Grade 4 – Reading, Writing and Math  
Grade 5 – Reading, Math and Science  
Grade 6 – Reading and Math  
Grade 7 – Reading, Writing and Math  
Grade 8 – Reading, Math and Social Studies  
Grades 11 and 12 – English, Language Arts, Math and Social Studies

## Where to Learn More!

- Your child’s campus
- The Texas Education Agency Curriculum Office, 512-463-9581
- The Texas Education Agency Student Assessment Office, 512-463-9536
- The Texas Education Agency website, [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

# Guide to Bryan Schools & Parks





# Bryan ISD Schools & Facilities

1. Bryan High School (grades 9-12)  
Michael Cargill, Principal – (979) 731-7200  
3450 Campus Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7203

2. Stephen F. Austin Middle School (grades 6-8)  
David Rueda, Principal – (979) 821-6700  
801 S. Ennis Street, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 821-6739

3. Jane Long Middle School (grades 6-8)  
Lee Yeager, Principal – (979) 821-6500  
1106 N. Harvey Mitchell Pkwy, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 822-7410

4. Sam Rayburn Middle School (grades 6-8)  
Jerry Ellis, Principal – (979) 731-7600  
1048 N. Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7612

5. Bonham Elementary (grades K-5)  
Ken Newbold, Principal – (979) 361-5370  
2801 Wilkes Drive, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 778-1913

6. Bowen Elementary (grades K-5)  
Linda Sasse, Principal – (979) 731-7550  
3870 Copperfield Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7559

7. Branch Elementary (grades K-5)  
David Ogden, Principal – (979) 361-5290  
2040 W. Villa Maria Road, Bryan, TX 77807  
FAX (979) 821-5102

8. Carver Early Childhood Center (Pre K)  
Dr. Rhonda Richardson, Principal – (979) 361-5336  
1401 W. Martin Luther King, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 361-5361

9. Crockett Elementary (grades K-5)  
Janet George, Principal – (979) 361-5376  
401 Elm Street, Bryan, TX 77801  
FAX (979) 821-6557

10. Fannin Elementary (grades K-5)  
Ronny Werner, Principal – (979) 361-5380  
1200 Baker Avenue, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 822-7518

11. Henderson Elementary (grades K-5)  
Linda Montoya, Principal – (979) 361-5385  
801 Matous Street, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 821-6753

12. Houston Elementary (grades K-5)  
Pati Caperton, Principal – (979) 731-7500  
4501 Canterbury Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7527

13. Johnson Elementary (grades K-5)  
Carol Happ, Principal – (979) 361-5388  
3800 Oak Hill Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 260-2416

14. Jones Elementary (grades 3-5)  
Dawn DeWald, Principal – (979) 361-5350  
1400 Pecan, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 821-6625

15. Kemp Elementary (grades K-5)  
Kelli Deegeear, Principal – (979) 361-5360  
1601 W. Martin Luther King, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 779-3044

16. Milam Elementary (grades K-2)  
LaTreace Craig, Principal – (979) 361-5392  
1201 Ridgedale Street, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 821-6588

17. Mitchell Elementary (grades K-5)  
Karen Kaspar, Principal – (979) 731-7000  
2500 Austin’s Colony Parkway, Bryan, TX 77808  
FAX (979) 731-7027

18. Navarro Elementary (grades K-5)  
Ginger Wentrcek, Principal – (979) 361-5300  
4619 Northwood Drive, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 778-4462

19. Neal Elementary (grades K-5)  
Linda Asberry, Principal – (979) 821-6600  
801 W. Martin Luther King, Bryan, TX 77803  
FAX (979) 821-6613

20. Sul Ross Elementary (grades K-5)  
Linda Madden, Principal – (979) 361-5394  
3300 Parkway Terrace, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 822-5755

21. ACE Program (grades 9-12)  
Sandra Petty, Principal – (979) 731-7855  
1307 Memorial Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7864

22. Center for Alternative Programs (CAPS)  
Mary Walraven, Supervisor – (979) 731-7801  
2200 Villa Maria Road, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7826

23. Central Distribution Center/Child Nutrition Ser-  
vices  
Alice Richter, Director – (979) 361-5239  
1920 N. Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan, TX 77808  
FAX (979) 778-7343

24. Hammond-Oliver HS for Human Sciences  
Judy Hughson, Dean – (979) 731-7830  
1305 Memorial Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7838

25. Lamar Technology Academy  
Teresa Parish, Dean – (979) 731-7770  
1901 Villa Maria Road, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7776

25. Special Opportunity School (SOS)  
Dena Frieda, Principal – (979) 731-7720  
1901 Villa Maria Road, Bryan, TX 77802  
FAX (979) 731-7723

## City of Bryan Park Facilities

- 1 Bryan Regional Athletic Complex (BRAC)  
5440 North Texas Avenue

2 Bonham Park  
2315 Russell Drive

3 San Jacinto Park  
1503 Saunders Street

4 Scurry Park  
1501 Wellington Avenue

5 Neal Park  
600 West 22nd Street

6 Jane Long Park  
439 North Harvey Mitchell Parkway

7 Henderson Park  
1629 Mockingbird Road

8 Washington Park  
500 East 20th Street

9 Sadie Thomas Park  
129 Moss Street

10 Castle Heights Park  
1501 Hooper Street

11 Heritage Park  
600 South Hutchins Street

12 Sue Haswell Memorial Park  
1142 East William Joel Bryan Parkway

13 Villa West Park  
2050 West Villa Maria Road

14 Travis Park  
525 West Carson Street

15 Sam Rayburn Park  
1449 North Earl Rudder Freeway

16 Astin Recreation Area  
129 Rountree Drive

17 Camelot Park  
2529 East Villa Maria Road

18 Austin’s Colony Park  
2400 Austin’s Colony Parkway

19 Williamson Park  
411 Williamson Drive

20 Bryan Municipal Golf Course & Lake  
206 West Villa Maria Road

21 Bryan High School Tennis Courts  
Oak Ridge Drive

22 Crescent Park  
401 Hensel Avenue

23 Garden Acres Park  
745 Garden Acres Boulevard

24 Tanglewood Park  
3901 Carter Creek Parkway

25 Bryan Aquatic Center (BAC)  
3100 Oak Ridge Drive

26 Tiffany Park  
3890 Copperfield Drive

27 Copperfield Park  
4521 Canterbury Drive

City of Bryan Parks & Recreation Department  
209-5200



# Excitement Returning to Downtown!

Redevelopment spurs economic growth



The La Salle Hotel in Downtown Bryan

Where can you find new construction, redevelopment and rehabilitation projects, street improvements, and a tough place to find a parking space on a weekday?

Although it may surprise you, the answer is Historic Downtown Bryan!

Bryan’s oldest business district is experiencing a renaissance, of sorts, and is enjoying new visitors, as well as faithful customers, to its restaurants, shops, libraries, and historic landscape. And the ever-increasing number of downtown loft apartments has become a popular alternative to the traditional apartment lifestyle.

Consider this sampling of recent economic development activity:

- The new, 62-space public parking lot behind the Carnegie Library is nearing completion
- The entire Parker Building is renovated and ready for retail and residential tenants
- Texas Furniture Company is remodeling its new location on Main Street
- Trajen Corporation has almost completed the renovation of the former First National Bank Building at the corner of Main Street and William Joel Bryan Parkway, where Managed Technologies will open and additional lease space will be available
- The former Corner of Time Building is putting the transom windows back in place after stripping years of paint from the brick structure
- Downtown Pharmacy has new façades on both Bryan and Main streets

The momentum has truly returned to historic downtown, and will continue one building and one business at a time.

Many of the aforementioned investments are made possible in part by the City of Bryan’s Downtown Improvement Plan. The Façade Grant Program was recapitalized this year by the Bryan City Council’s commitment of \$350,000. The program is a dollar-for-dollar matching grant program for façade renovation, which can include roof repairs. To maintain and add to the character of our historic downtown, many businesses are using the program to enhance the “curb appeal” of their property—that is, using an attractive storefront to entice customers to see what’s inside. These businesses understand that “curb appeal” can increase how loudly their cash registers ring.

It is widely understood that downtowns have assets that malls and strip centers do not: A sense of place and a sense of community, where streets are uniquely suited for small,

# School Board Members Deserve Appreciation



School Board Members are, from left to right:  
Front: Brett Cumpton, Susan McKneely, Dr. Nancy Simpson  
Back: Tommy Ramirez Jr., Merrill Green, David Stasny and Carl Hasan

School board members come from all walks of life. In Bryan, they are an educator, a retired educator, a military retiree running a newspaper, an architect, a lawyer, a juvenile justice worker and a college professor.

While they wear many hats in the workday world, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading our school district. Board members must pull together as a team toward a common goal—helping students achieve. While they may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward that goal.

Board members contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. Whether it be crafting policies, hiring administrators, listening to staff and student concerns, or recognizing outstanding programs, board members always keep their eyes on the goal of student achievement.

The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend in leading their districts. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities, and spend many hours in the schools and at extracurricular events.

Their love of learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and the community, drive board members’ desire to lead so students can achieve.

This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees — Board President Susan McKneely, Vice President Carl Hasan, Secretary Brett Cumpton, David Stasny, Tommy Ramirez Jr., Merrill Green and Dr. Nancy Simpson — work together to provide a better future for our children. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated.

locally-owned businesses. Downtown Bryan is a great location for service stores, quality shops and, of course, family-owned businesses that command the loyalty of the buying public that delights in personal relationships.

Bryan is now capitalizing on its long-neglected assets. It is a return to community self-reliance, and this approach encourages imagination, sharpening of entrepreneurial skills, and strong participation from the private sector. It is also a return to a time when cities were considerably more self-reliant, government was smaller, and downtowns were everyone’s neighbor.



# Progress Continues on Traditions Golf & Country Club



Progress on the Traditions Golf and Country Club at University Ranch in west Bryan continues to be made every day, with completion of the golf course scheduled for late fall.

Visitors to the property, which is roughly bound by West Villa Maria Road, Harvey Mitchell Parkway and Texas 47, will immediately notice that the entry road and first phase of the spine road to the clubhouse and lodging have been paved. A multi-purpose trail and landscaping will be added to the beautifully wooded area during subsequent development phases.

The Melrose Company, based in Hilton Head, SC, and the City of Bryan are nearing completion of a final agreement that will allow the construction and operation of the Nicklaus-designed, championship golf course. Although a closing of the property sale has not yet been finalized, Melrose has made a good-faith commitment to the city and to Texas A&M University that the golf course will be completed by Oct. 31. Practice and training facilities for the Texas A&M University golf teams will be completed by August.

Weitz Golf International, the firm hired to perform the actual course construction, has completed rough grading of 15 of the planned 20 golf holes (includes two practice holes), and is working with the course architect to acquire final designs for greens.

The natural topography of the golf course site is so varied that, beginning in February, more than 20 bridges will be installed to traverse the many ravines, gullies and creeks that give the Traditions site a challenging and picturesque reward to those who come to play.

From a residential standpoint, it is anticipated that Jordan Properties will begin work this spring on the University Ranch residential pods, pending an official closing between the city and Melrose. For information regarding available lots at University Ranch, call 1-866-4U-RANCH, or visit [www.universityranch.com](http://www.universityranch.com).



## Bryan ISD to use Boys Town Model of Discipline

There are no bad boys. There are only bad environments, bad examples, bad thinking.

—Father Edward J. Flanagan,  
Founder of Boys Town, 1917

If Father Flanagan were alive today he'd include girls in this statement made near the time when he founded his famous home for wayward and homeless youth. But the message is still true. If a good environment, good examples and good thinking can be demonstrated, then you will have better behaved children.

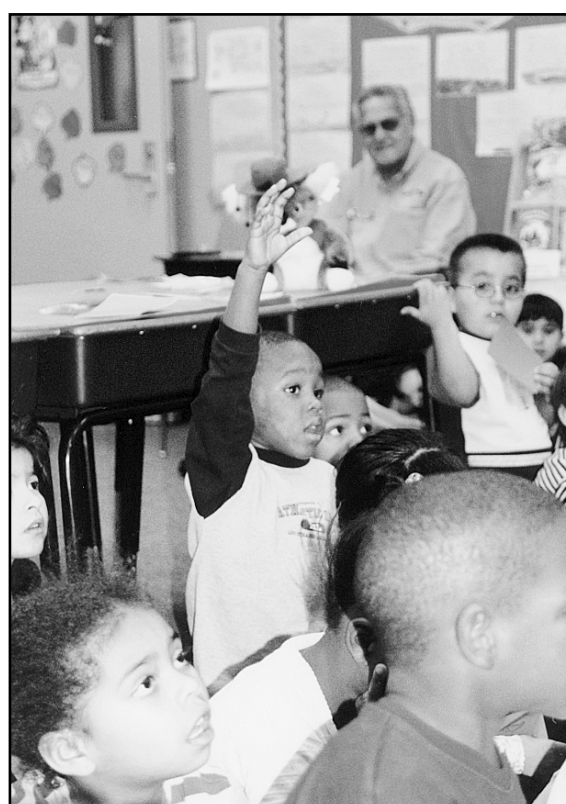
Bryan ISD is in the process of implementing the Girls and Boys Town Model of Discipline for classroom management and administrative intervention. Bryan administrators and teachers have been trained in the techniques, spreading the program throughout the District. Girls and Boys Town is a model of teaching life skills across the academic curriculum, enabling students to stay on task, act responsibly and become self-managers.

In the training, teachers are learning how to teach social skills to reach the following goals — increase student attendance and punctuality, understand and follow school rules, improve relations with teachers, improve academic performance, build appropriate peer interaction skills, increase participation in class activities, improve self-esteem, increase satisfaction with school, decrease out-of-school suspension, decrease drop out rates, and build employability and life skills.

### Boys Town Classroom Social Skills

The Social Skills curriculum provides students with a foundation of skills that encompass adult relations, peer relations, school rules and classroom behaviors.

Specific skills include following instructions, greeting others, disagreeing appropriately, resisting peer pressure, making an apology and giving and accepting compliments.



### Administrative Intervention

While Social Skills Curriculum addresses the skills of the classroom teacher, a second part – Administrative Intervention Training – is aimed at school administrators. Sometimes, no matter how patient or experienced the teacher, a student will be sent to the office.

Administrative Intervention allows administrators to function as “effective change agents” in response to more serious or continuing discipline problems. Unlike other responses to rule violations, which often focus on punishment, Administrative Intervention has a different goal—the successful return of a student to the classroom.

Sul Ross Elementary began using the Boys Town Model in 1995, when Diana Werner was principal. Current Ross principal Linda Madden has continued the program and believes it is very successful.

“It is a positive, structured method for teaching students the appropriate ways to handle a variety of life situations,” Madden said, “and then better ways to handle situations when students react inappropriately. I believe the teachers feel empowered with these tools, and students can feel successful as well. It provides an opportunity always to take a negative behavior, and turn it into a teaching opportunity! I believe this model allows everyone to be in a win-win situation in the end.”

“All District principals, assistant principals and counselors have received the Administrative Intervention training, or are scheduled to receive it,” said Diana Werner, who is now an Executive Director for Student Learning in Bryan ISD. “We will provide ongoing staff development until the program is implemented throughout the District.”



# New and Improved: Henderson Park Gets Ready for a Makeover

The City of Bryan, the Bryan Independent School District and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) are teaming up to provide a one-of-a-kind park to the city's west side.

Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), Henderson Park will experience tremendous growth and renovation, as well as provide amenities currently unavailable in the Brazos Valley.

TPWD commissioners awarded the City of Bryan the half-million dollar grant in August, bringing total available funding for the Henderson Park expansion and renovation to approximately \$2 million. The city, through the issuance of bonds in 2001, will furnish \$1.4 million; Bryan ISD will contribute \$50,000; and Ben Milam Elementary School PTO will donate \$3,000.

Henderson Park currently occupies 21.76 acres and is located at the southeast corner of Palasota Drive and Mockingbird Road. Milam Elementary School is at the northwest corner of the same intersection. Through a collaborative effort between the Bryan Housing Authority and Bryan ISD, the total area of Henderson Park will expand to 51 acres.

Proposed amenities for the expanded park include a swimming pool with bathhouse and restrooms, picnic facilities, four soccer fields (one with lights), playgrounds, walking/jogging trail, batting cage, horse-shoe pits, an open space preserve, sports/picnic pavilion, three Little League baseball fields, and one softball field.

Milam Elementary will be receiving new and improved playground equipment as part of the new park.

"Henderson Park will be great for the Milam community," said Milam principal LaTreace Craig, "because it will provide a place for our families to spend quality time together and enhance the appearance of our neighborhood and school. Henderson Park will include something for every family member to enjoy, providing facilities for swimming, soccer, baseball, jogging and skate boarding. And we are especially excited that the grant also includes new playground equipment for Milam Elementary School."



The skate park, the first such facility in the Brazos Valley, will be a featured attraction at Henderson Park, according to Bryan Parks and Recreation Manager David Schmitz, and will attract skaters, skateboarders and BMX bike fans.

"Skate parks are one of the park amenities that are in high demand across the nation," said Schmitz. "There are several cities in Texas that have plans to build them. We've had nothing but positive comments from the community about our plans, not only from skaters and skateboarders, but from parents, too."

Another unique park amenity will be Henderson's swimming pool, which will feature a "zero depth" beach-like atmosphere and other shallow water play areas. The pool will also have four lap lanes and a water slide.

The City of Bryan has been the fortunate recipient of numerous grants from TPWD for park development. A reason for that success, according to City of Bryan Grant Writer Roy Ross, is the partnership the city has forged with Bryan ISD.

"The school district is not eligible to apply for this funding, but because of the close working relationship between the city and the school district, the citizens of Bryan have reaped many benefits," said Ross, whose work has brought nearly \$4 million of TPWD and Texas Department of Transportation grant monies to Bryan since 1987.

The Aquatic Center, Austin Colony Park and the Neal Recreation Center are just a few of the results of the city-school parks partnerships.

The renovation and expansion of Henderson Park is expected to take 12-18 months.

## Flying High at Coulter Field

With little fanfare, the City of Bryan has recently completed several construction and renovation projects at Coulter Field Municipal Airport — ones that are timed perfectly to the increasing interest in local air transportation and air recreational activities.

The city has been fortunate to obtain and use several Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Aviation Division grants to spur the improvements at Coulter Field. For example, a new terminal building has been constructed, the entrance to the airport has been redesigned, and the aprons have been

enhanced to give pilots a smoother ride on the taxiways. Soon, another TxDOT grant will allow the city to construct hangar access roads.

While the old terminal building remains standing and occupied, the new terminal is expected to open soon. A few minor changes need to occur at Coulter Field before the transition can occur. Once the move takes place, the old terminal building will be demolished.

The new terminal building will provide pilots and the public easier access to Coul-

ter Field, plus the bright, open feel of the public areas provides enhanced viewing opportunities. Additionally, a training room and pilot area will provide greater resources to those who use the field on a regular basis for business and recreational purposes.

A grand opening of the new terminal building is expected later this year. The community is encouraged to attend the event and learn more about the opportunities Coulter Field offers, such as flight schools, skydiving, learning about different aircraft, and viewing the gliders and other planes that call Coulter Field Municipal Airport home.

## Street Sense

Since 1999, the City of Bryan has resurfaced approximately 18 percent of all city streets at a cost of \$6.8 million.

It's amazing to consider that nearly 20 percent of the 268 miles of streets in Bryan have received a new seal coat, an asphalt overlay, or complete reconstruction. The city plans to keep that momentum.

The Bryan City Council, led by Mayor Jay Don Watson, has made street renovation a top priority. Another \$2.3 million has been allocated this year for streets, and those projects are set to begin in March and continue in phases through the summer months.

"To me, among the city's primary purposes is to provide protection to our citizens, sound utilities and maintenance of our infrastructure, such as streets and sewer systems," said Watson. "This is where our priority should be. It also adds to anyone visiting our city. The first thing they notice is the condition of

our streets. Good streets make a good impression, especially on people and businesses considering moving to our town."

Another top priority for the city council has been renovation and redevelopment in historic downtown, and that includes streets.

In 2003, Main Street—from William Joel Bryan Parkway to 28th Street—will experience complete renewal. The new concrete street will also feature new sidewalks, landscaping, period lighting, brick pavers, handicap accessibility to all buildings, new storm sewer lines and enhanced fire protection mechanisms. The \$3 million-project, part of the city's Downtown Master Plan, is scheduled to take place between March and November, and will further enhance the appearance, atmosphere and excitement in the city's oldest business district.

For more information about City of Bryan street rehabilitation, contact the Transportation Department at (979) 209-5900.